

MSK-5014  
2 August 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - July 1985

## I. GENERAL

The Embassy's central air conditioning system broke down and was out of operation for three days, from 22-24 July. This came during the sweltering heat and humidity of the Seoul summer, and offices quickly became uncomfortably warm and stuffy. This reminded the Bureau Chief of several months in Abidjan when there was no electricity due to a severe drought, and offices and houses could not be air conditioned until generators were procured. In an attempt to take Seoul staffers' minds off of the local discomfort, he regaled them with fascinating stories of "This is nothing, you should have been in Africa..." and "This kind of thing really starts to get to you after three or four months." He was mildly distressed to learn that Bureau employees evinced little interest, despite the fact that they had not had the opportunity to be tested by such adversity. He is now eagerly awaiting winter, when he will be able to tell the newcomers about walking to school during legendary Colorado snowstorms.

## II. OPERATIONS

The continuing talks on various levels between North and South, along with the crackdown on students and other sectors by the ROK Government, helped keep the Bureau's monthly wordage at a near record level. July's wordage total of 716,000 was the second highest ever, and only 14,000 under the May record. Within the total, wordage from Seoul radio and vernacular papers continues to increase, and the Chinese Unit output seems to be stabilizing at a high level since the May coverage swap with Hong Kong.

1. The multilevel talks between North and South continued in July, generating a good deal of reportage and commentary from both sides. The Red Cross working-level talks were held on 15 and 19 July, and parliamentary exploratory talks on the 23d. In addition, the first MAC meeting between the U.S. and DPRK sides since last year was held on the 29th. The DPRK side's proposal to disarm the Panmunjom conference area attracted considerable interest on the part of Embassy and other key local consumers. And, after a lapse of several months, Pyongyang radio carried two Kim Il-song interviews with foreign journals. His interview with the Japanese leftist magazine SEKAI, 12 takes in length, attracted interest on the part of analysts for his comments on North-South relations and foreign policy.

-2-

2. The ROK Government crackdown on university students, highlighted by the Seoul Prosecutor's Office report on its investigation into the Sammin Struggle Committee on 18 July, was a focus of attention during the month. A particularly volatile month in the ROK ended with the police placing dissident politician Kim Tae-chung under house arrest on the 31st, one day before the opening of a convention of the opposition NKPD. With the current political ferment the Bureau is continuing to process more material, particularly priority reportage, from Seoul radio and the vernacular press. This trend is expected to continue as long as the radio and papers continue their relatively open reportage of domestic events.

3. Chinese Unit output of PRC provincial material appears to have stabilized at a high level of 170,000-180,000 words monthly following the May coverage swap with Hong Kong Bureau. Seoul gained coverage of two provinces, Beijing and Hebei; and while wordage from Beijing City Service and BEIJING RIBAO has never been very high, the combined wordage from radio and press coverage of Hebei Province is substantial. Deputy Chief Barry Burton has been working closely with the unit, revising some established practices so that the unit's selection and processing more closely approximate those of Hong Kong and Okinawa Bureaus.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

### Personnel

1. [redacted] and their families left Seoul on 14 and 22 July respectively, for reassignment in Washington. Their replacements, [redacted] arrived in June and have settled into the Bureau routine.

2. Chinese Unit Chief [redacted] has been selected to participate ✓ in the 1985 foreign national orientation program in September.

#### IV. VISITS

Okinawa Bureau Cruising Officer [redacted] was at the Bureau from 19-26 July, for follow-up training of the Bureau's part-time cruiser, Korean monitor [redacted]

## V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

1. The Embassy Association sponsored a festive afternoon of food and games to celebrate July 4th. FBIS newcomers [redacted] showed commendable spirit by volunteering to lead the children's bicycle parade. Dressed to suit the occasion as Uncle Sam and Betsy Ross, the Burtons led the parade of decorated bikes and costumed children on a circuitous route through the Embassy housing area, ending at the Embassy picnic ground. A photographic record has been retained.

-3-

STAT  
STAT

2.

years in Seoul. he served on the

STAT  
STAT

[redacted] In recognition of [redacted] efforts on behalf of [redacted]  
[redacted] he received a letter of commendation from Ambassador Walker  
praising his community service. The letter says in part: [redacted] dedicated  
and unstinting efforts paid off in major improvements in the club's appearance,  
atmosphere, and quality of service, and in Embassy employee morale.... [redacted]  
leadership has made [redacted] a major contributor to the  
Embassy community's morale, welfare, and productivity."

STAT

[redacted]

Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment  
Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau  
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

SEOUL BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR July, 1985I. TOTAL FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 716,000  
 TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 145,980  
 TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 1,564

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
-----------------	-------------------	-------------------

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:  
 (minutes or issues per week) 13,265 min 5,850 min 104 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:  
 (publishable words per month)

## CHINA (PRC)

Beijing in

Korean to Korea 4,150

Beijing City Service in  
Mandarin

1,820

Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in  
Mandarin

11,990

Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in  
Mandarin

19,200

Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in  
Mandarin

14,320

Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in  
Mandarin

10,220

Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in  
Mandarin

14,420

Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in  
Mandarin

3,150

Tianjin City Service in  
Mandarin

4,700

Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in  
Chinese 1,150Changchun JILIN RIBAO in  
Chinese 12,750Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in  
Chinese 8,150Hohhot NEIMENGGU RIBAO in  
Chinese 9,750Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in  
Chinese 10,700Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO IN  
Chinese 21,520Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in  
Chinese 20,820Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO IN  
Chinese 6,870

## CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Voice of the Revolutionary  
Party for Reunification in  
Korean to South Korea

31,220

	BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
<b>KOREA (NORTH)</b>			
Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean		162,180	
Pyongyang KCNA in English			157,110
Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean			5,700
<b>KOREA (SOUTH)</b>			
Seoul Domestic Service in Korean		9,100	
Seoul YONHAP in English			31,850
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			2,200
Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in Korean			2,620
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			1,950
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			3,700
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			3,300
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			43,220
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			47,420
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			11,150
Seoul SINTONG-A in Korean			10,450
<b>UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS</b>			
Moscow in Korean to Korea		17,150	